REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on October 29, 2003.

I.   Interview Summary

Applicant's representative would like to thank Examiner Singh for the courtesy she extended during the telephone interview conducted on January 29, 2004. During the telephone interview, Applicant's representative proposed amendments to the independent claims to more clearly distinguish the claims from Nguyen et al (U.S. Pat. 5,737,592), Iizuka et al (U.S. Pat. 6,424,980) and Washington et al (U.S. Pat. 6,515,682), (collectively "the applied references").

II.   Discussion of Amendment and Prior Art Rejection

By the foregoing Amendment, the original claims have been amended generally as proposed during the interview. In addition, new Claims 30-39 have been added. No new matter has been added.

As discussed during the interview, the added claim language is believed to more clearly distinguish the claims from the applied references. In this regard, none of the applied references involves the generation, or graphical representation, of wrappers that include operations of the type now recited in the claims.

Although Iizuka et al involves the extraction of data from web pages, the task of extracting the data items in Iizuka et al is not performed by a wrapper as defined in the claims. Rather, the data items are apparently extracted using web page metadata or template files that specify the structures of specific web pages that are responsive to a search query. These metadata or template files are apparently constructed manually.

The applied references also fail to collectively disclose or suggest a graphical development environment for the creation of the wrappers, as set forth in certain claims. In this regard, the graphical environment disclosed in Washington et al is used to develop "controls" such as list boxes, option buttons, scroll bars, and text boxes. Nothing in the applied references suggests using this type of development environment to construct wrappers for extracting data items from web pages.

In view of these and other distinctions, Applicant submits that the claims are patentably distinct from the applied references.

By amending the claims and arguing that the claims are patentable over the applied references, Applicant does not admit that these references constitute "prior art." Applicant reserves the right to disqualify one or more of the applied references as prior art in the future.

III. Information Disclosure Statement

With this Amendment, Applicant is submitting a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement to submit three additional references for consideration.
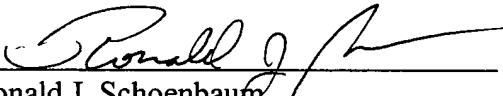
IV. Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant requests that the obviousness rejections be withdrawn.

If any issues remain which can potentially be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record at his direct dial number of 949-721-2950.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 2-27-04   By: _____
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